

STONE MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

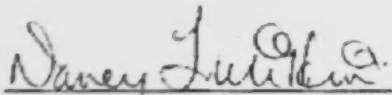
February 2003

Approved by:



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Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 4, 2003



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 11, 2003

STONE MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL PARK

Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Stone Mountain Provincial Park is situated 140 km west of Fort Nelson at Kilometre 595 of the Alaska Highway. The 25 690 ha park is located at Summit Lake, the highest point on the Alaska Highway. Set in the Rocky Mountains, this protected area is part of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area. The surrounding area is rural, with nearby communities including Toad River and Muncho Lake. The Alaska Highway provides an important link between northeast British Columbia and Alaska, and southern British Columbia and the United States.

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Stone Mountain Provincial Park is to protect representative forest, lake and wetland ecosystems of the Eastern Muskwa Ranges and Muskwa Foothills ecozones. Two biogeoclimatic subzones are featured in the park, the ATunp and the SWBmk. Large mammals found in the park include Stone sheep, moose, woodland caribou, black bear and grizzly bear. Smaller mammals include lynx, porcupine, squirrels and chipmunks.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to maintain the wilderness setting for traditional wilderness recreation and tourism opportunities of the remote northern park, and the backcountry recreation opportunities associated with more accessible lakes in the park. The recreation role is significant considering that the peak projection for tourists is approximately 166 000 people per year. The average to low number of tourists is around 130 000 people. The Flowering Spring Trail offers excellent hiking opportunities, with views of remote alpine lakes. The park is used for hiking, backcountry horse trips, guided hunting trips, and camping.

The natural habitats and their associated wildlife and plant species are of special interest to naturalists. Alpine tundra and pristine lakes in the area provide photographers with excellent opportunities.

The park serves as an access point to the Wokkash area and forms a link to the adjacent Northern Rocky Mountains Provincial Park. Authorized horse trips are permitted within the park, with certain themes encouraged such as a "pack it in, pack it out". Guide-outfitters guide hunters through areas of the park, such as the MacDonald drainage which is central to the park.

The Alaska Highway services Canadian and international tourists, with approximately 50% of summer travelers from the United States. The Stone Mountain Provincial Park Summit Lake campground serves as a stop over for many of these travellers.

Tertiary Role

The **tertiary** role of the park is to provide opportunities for study, viewing and appreciation of the natural and cultural values of the park. There are extensive biological research opportunities in the park. Three Park Use Permits have been issued for research purposes with expiry dates between 2003 and 2004. Research includes surveys, inventories, collections, monitoring and radio collaring of wildlife, and snow measurements.

Known Management Issues	Response
The 1984 park master plan is outdated	• Prepare a park management plan within the next 5 years.
Listed species within the park	• Survey, inventory and monitor listed species.
Snowmobile use and caribou interaction	• Use is low, but continue to monitor
Relationships with in-holding, land transfers, boat use, communication tower road closure	• Maintain communications with in-holding to ensure positive relationships remain • Since closure, caribou poaching has stopped • If boat impacts increase, restrictions may be necessary
Backcountry camping impacts (e.g. tree cutting burning the tops, cutting green trees for firewood)	• Provide adequate signage in backcountry camping areas and along trails • Increase information to increase awareness of backcountry camping impacts on the webpage • Increase staff presence
Garbage clean-up, old military garbage dumps, remaining infrastructure	• Explore options including local volunteer opportunities, scheduling specific times for staff to survey areas of heavier use for litter, provide adequate signage
Unknown usage on the Flower Spring Trail	• Implement a self reporting survey

Zoning

The Intensive Recreation Zone is located immediately around the Summit Lake Campground. The campground is highly developed and sustains a high level of use by tourists who are car camping or picnicking. This zone comprises only 0.3% of the park.

The Wilderness Recreation Zone is found throughout the remainder of the park (99.7% of the park). Other than the Intensive Recreation Zone and a few in-holdings along the highway, the park is composed of a remote wilderness environment. The Alaska Highway passes through Stone Mountain Provincial Park, however much of the terrain is mountainous and not easily accessible. Access is limited to backcountry pursuits in this zone. There are no facilities present in this zone. ATV and other motorized access are not considered allowable uses with the exception of snowmobiling. Snowmobiling is not a common use in the park at this time, however it will be monitored.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection

X Eastern Muskwa Ranges – 40.13% protected; Stone Mountain makes a significant contribution (24,460 ha) to the representation of this ecosection. 3.51% of the overall protected area representation of this ecosection is provided by Stone Mountain Park

Muskwa Foothills – 30.56% is protected. Stone Mountain Park makes a minor contribution – 718 ha or 0.22% of the overall representation of this ecosection.

- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

X ATunp, SWBmk

Special Feature

X Erosion pillars

Rare/Endangered Values

X 6 blue-listed plant species; entire-leaved daisy, Austrian draba, fragile sedge, short-leaved sedge, rock sedge, sheathed cotton-grass.

Scientific/Research Opportunities

X Research includes surveys, inventories, collections, monitoring and radio collaring of wildlife, snow measurements and non-specified research.

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry

X Points where access to the mountains is easy compared with other parks in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area. Activities include hiking, rock climbing, horseback riding, hunting, wildlife viewing and photography in a backcountry/wilderness setting. A self-reporting system will determine the number of people using the Flowering Springs Trail.

- destination

X Backcountry destination for local area residents; Stone Mountain provides an attraction to local residents for hunting opportunities, hiking, and nature appreciation. Flowering Spring Trail and Baba Canyon provide attraction for hiking, rock climbing and other activities.

- travel corridor

X Significant numbers of tourists travel the Alaska Highway each year; upwards of 100 000 travellers. The campground is one of only a few for travellers to rest at.

- local recreation

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

CULTURAL HERITAGE	
Representation	X Building of the Alaska Highway; old highway camp on the highest point in the Rocky Mountains along the Alaska Highway.
Special Feature	X • Kaska Dena: evidence of tool making near Rocky Crest Lake and MacDonald Creek • US military encampment site • Burial sites, both First Nations and US military

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**Other Designations**

Relationship to Other PAs	X Part of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area. Wokpaash loop is made up of MacDonald valley trail, providing a link to Northern Rockies. Stone Mountain Provincial Park adds to the protection of this vast northeast mountain landscape, creating an unparalleled contiguous wilderness. Linked to the Northern Rocky Mountains Park.
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Co-operative Management Arrangements**Partnerships****Vulnerability**

Relationship to Other Strategies	X Linked to the parks within the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area
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Area: 25,690 hectares

Date of establishment: June 26, 1957

Zoning Map - Stone Mountain Provincial Park Map 1



Protection: Alberta Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



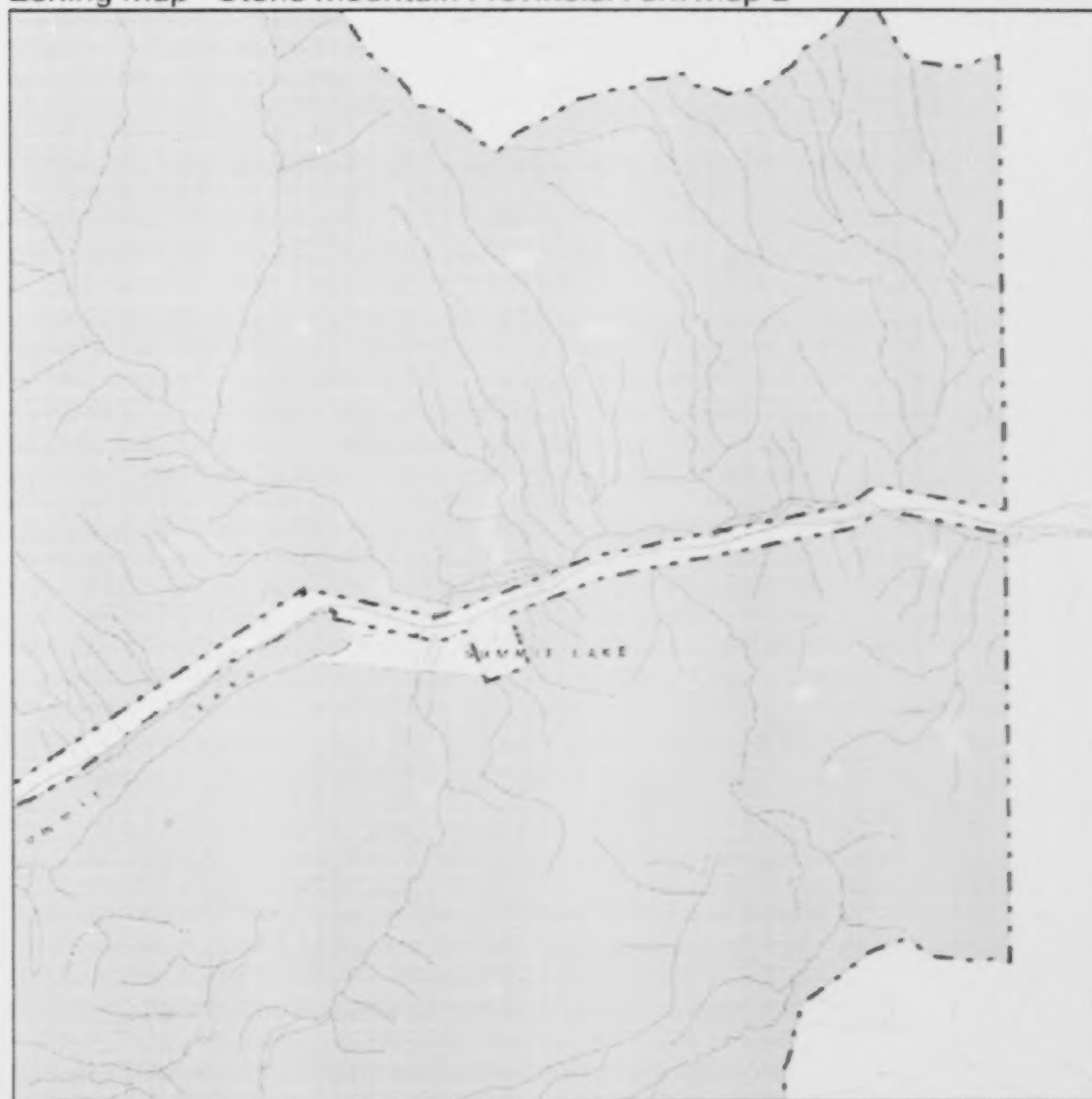
Intensive Recreation
Wilderness Recreation
Protected Area Boundary

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km

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Zoning Map - Stone Mountain Provincial Park Map 2



Projection: Albers Equal Area
Datum: NAD83



Intensive Recreation
Wilderness Recreation
Protected Area Boundary

0

1

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